The Mat-Su Monitor

VOL. 2, NO. 2 | PALMER, ALASKA | NOVEMBER, 1985 | FREE

Photo by Pat O'Hara

Accreditation Team Finishes Work

(Back row, left to right) Al Okson, President Mat-Su Community College; Dr. Ernest Martinez, President Seattle Central Community College; James R. Piercy, Associate Dean of Instruction, Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon; Dr. Gary T. Peterson, Executive Vice-President, College of the Redwoods, Eureka, California.

(Front) Elizabeth Fallon, English instructor at MSCC and chair of the self-study committee; Dr. Elsie Doser, Office Administration Chair, Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, Nevada; Dr. Joseph A. Malik, President Grays Harbor College, Aberdeen, Washington; Dr. Dean R. Sorenson, Academic Vice-President, Ricks College, Rexburg, Idaho.

Accreditation team commends Mat-Su

by Pat O'Hara

A year of intense work and evaluation ended Oct. 3 when a team of educators from the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges presented commendations and recommendations to the staff and students of Mat-Su Community College.

"The most precious asset you have is a very human quality expressed by you and your students," said Dr. Joseph Malik, president of Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, Washington. Malik headed the eight-member team which scrutinized the policies, curriculum, staff, and campus buildings here. "I encourage you to jealously guard that quality," stressed Malik. "It is more special than you realize."

Malik went on to recognize several achievements of the Mat-Su program, including community pride in the school, effective administrative leadership, the development of a community cultural center at the college, and a keen awareness of the commitment to the challenges presented by a rapidly growing institution.

"You are well aware that the college is growing faster than the resources to support it, but you have the staff dedication to meet challenges," Malik said, then added, "That's not a hollow comment."

When addressing the team recommendations, Malik noted the philosophy of the team was to help the college sharpen its

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Student loan changes possible

Alaska state student loan terms may change said Representative Ron Larson speaking to student government members recently.

Next year new and returning students might be expected to come up with a percentage of amount requested, as suggested by the post-secondary education commission. Another proposed amendment included eliminating the forgiveness clause, but has already been rejected by the commission.

Still being considered are proposals to increase the interest rates after the first three years to 10 per cent for the following seven years and cutting in half the amount of time before repayment begins. (If a student is eligible for a forgiveness clause, the debt to be repaid would equal five of the last seven years at 10 per cent.)

The current program provides a borrower with a total loan of as much as $6,000 for undergraduates and $7,000 for post-graduates. Also, under the prevailing contract, students are not required to begin repayment until one year after leaving school. The interest rate now is five per cent and qualifying students are allowed forgiveness of up to 50 per cent of the total amount borrowed.

The idea of eliminating the forgiveness clause was rejected,

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Watch TV and earn credit

by Patty Jouppi

"Shut off the TV and study." A familiar quote, one you may not hear much longer. Television's role of instruction is now far beyond the realm of Sesame Street; one can now enroll in various college courses and watch them over broadcasts or on video tape.

This new era of 'Telecommunications Instruction' bases its format on a variety of audio visual technology such as video and computers. These non-traditional methods of instruction provide more efficient and effective long range training by allowing students to attend courses and study at convenient times.

As college budgets diminish, the reliance on 'Telecom' based delivery of both instructional and administrative services is becoming primary rather than supplemental. In the University of Alaska system, all of the campuses use audio conferences or broadcast television in their curriculum.

How does it work? Courses are listed in the semester catalogs of your local campus. You must register and pay tuition as with other courses with the exception that a small additional user fee is required. Prior to registration you will want to know the specific mode of delivery for the courses which interest you. This enables you to fit the instruction into your schedule.

There are several modes of delivery of material, each course lists its specific format. They include:

- **AUDIO CONFERENCE.** Communication by telephone-based conference, involving two or more sites, for instruction, support of instruction and administration. These courses are bridged through Learn Alaska and generally have specific meeting times.
- **LIVE TELEVISION.** Instruction or programs of information, using live television originating from a studio or television classroom. Such instruction generally uses audio conferencing for student discussion with the lecturer during the television segments.
- **TELECOURSE.** A previously produced series of instructional programs in which the primary medium is television. Typically telecourses include 30 half-hour segments: two aired each week for fifteen weeks. These are also available on video tape for viewing in the listening room in the MSCC library.
- **AUDIO GRAPHICS AND COMPUTER.** The use of electronic screen diagrams and computer based instruction.

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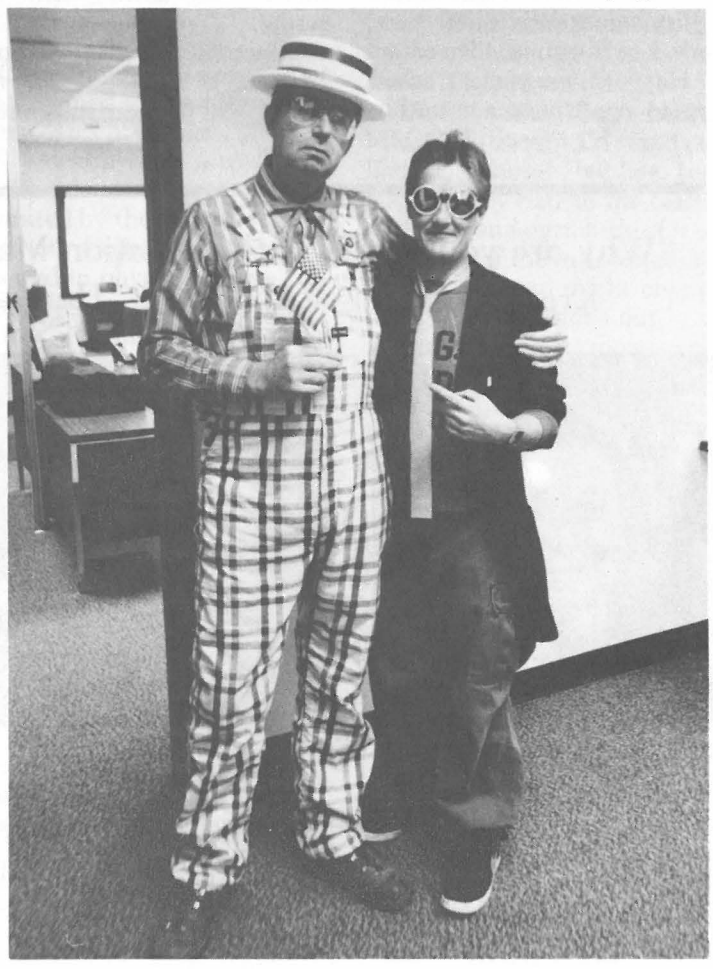


Redneck and Rebel: Glen Massey and Kris Sievers

Nature trail welcomes hikers

by Marianne Burns

Did you know Mat-Su Community College has a nature trail? Not many people do. To get that exhilarating, peaceful, back to nature feeling — go take a hike.

The trail is located on 60 acres of land behind the college. It starts at the far corner of the student parking lot, circles around and ends at Cortreel Drive and Snodgrass hall.

The main trail itself covers approximately one mile, about a 30 minute walk. Several side trails are also being cut, which loop into the main route.

The trail is partially paved with wood chips for clean, easy walking. The path can be used right now, even though it's not quite finished.

Along the trail you can see the agricultural department's test pits. Students use these pits for soil testing, and observing the many layers of earth and volcanic ash. Ted Berry, agricultural director, uses stakes, in the pits for marking these levels. There are seven pits in total along the path.

Making your way along the course you might find yourself staring eye to eye with a squirrel, watching and listening to birds at play amongst the sunlit tree tops, or looking across a historical site.

A very rough and rustic wooden dock is built next to a small pond.

"This is Okeson's lake," says Berry, although no one is quite sure how the lake was named.

"Oh, someone just called it that, and the name just sort of stuck," smiles Berry. "What better name than after the college's very own president, Al Okeson?"

Three-fourths of a mile down the route, a hiker can see six acres of cleared land. In the future this site will be used for tree experiments. The college has several sites picked out along the trail for tree planting, thinning areas, and untouched regions, except for fertilizer.

Plans call for an observation deck to be added next year. The trail will be handicap accessible to that point.

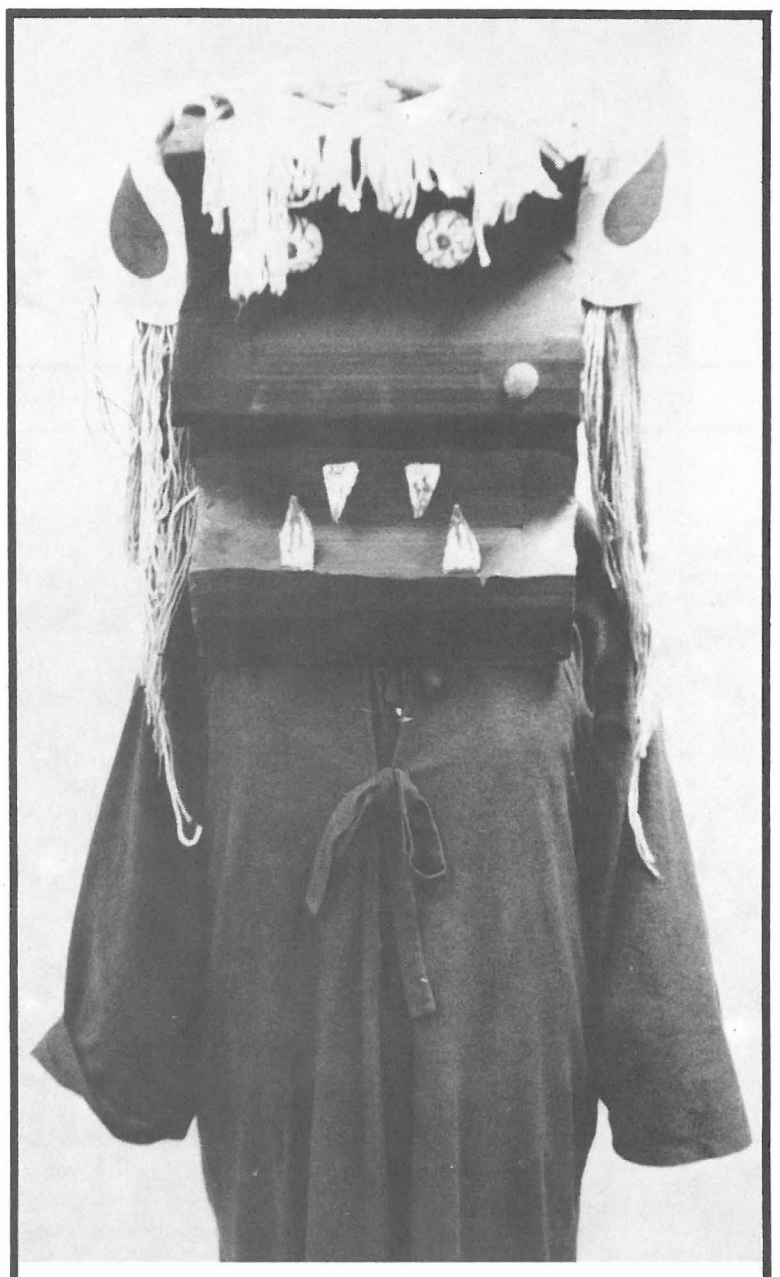
Eventually the entire pathway will be marked by signs and the side loop paths completed. At that time our Valley's elementary students may take advantage of the trail for school field trips.

The nature trail has been funded by a grant through the school agriculture department. Responsibility for the developement and plans of the project are Mat-Su College's Ted Berry, and Alex Connors, who teaches forestry.

These two men have spent months discussing, planning, mapping, and flagging the trail site. The bulk of physical labor has been done by students hired under the project grant. An effort has been made to cut and clear the trail without disturbing the surrounding environment.

The trail's open to anyone who would like to use it. The college is discouraging cross country skiers because of the steep hills and sharp turns.

Berry and Connors anticipate completion of the nature trail and official opening in spring of 1986.



Winner staff costume contest:
Rebecca Atwood

On writing and E.B. White

by Luke Higginbotham

Elwyn Brooks White loved to write about his salt water farm in Maine: about his friends, his neighbors, his animals, and his beloved New York. A reporter of everyday life, his beat covered the farm, the beaches, the streets of New York, and the small towns. He wrote about common people and simple things, because he loved the simple life. But his writing had a quality un-surpassed by others; a craftsman in the highest sense, he shared his craft with the world.

In the summer of 1938, he left New York and his job at the New Yorker to live on his farm. Not that he was disenchanted with New York, or the magazine; he just wanted to write his way, "As straight as possible and with no fuzziness."

Just before White left New York, Lee Hartman, then editor of Harper's magazine, asked him to contribute a monthly department. This, White readily accepted; here was his chance to write as straight as possible and with no fuzziness.

About writing, he said, "No one can write decently who is distrustful of the reader's intelligence, or whose attitude is patronizing.

True to his words, White was a decent writer. "One Man's Meat," a collection of essays published in 1942 and revised through 1944, though never a big seller, has staying power to rival the best. Extremely popular among the fighting men during World War Two, (maybe too popular), the book was banned for a while, then reinstated without explanation. "Some conscientious watchdog must have found it too rich a diet for our fighting men," he wrote. "I recall a twinge of satisfaction in having a book banned, it suggested that my stuff might be more substantial than it appeared on first glance."

"Essays of E.B. White," "One Man's Meat," and a host of his other works are widely read today, and "Charlotte's Web," the children's farm bible is still read in many schools. Substantial indeed.

Through his writings, he was friend to all. On a Sunday morning, one could visit with E.B. in his barn yard, or fruit orchard, or near his pond, with his animals. A kindly man who sat up for several days and nights with a sick pig, was the kind of man who could wirte about gulls and smelts, about buying a dog, or countless other earthy subjects the average reader could identify with, and want to read.

E.B. White died on October 1, 1985, at age 86. The world lost a great friend — a great writer.

But his writing lives.

Scholarships available

Applications are now being accepted for student government council tuition scholarships. If you are interested, please pick up a form from Barb Carney in the Financial Aid Office. Deadline for applications is Dec. 14. The major criteria for awarding the scholarship are GPA and financial need.

UACN users beware and prepare

by Patti Jouppi

On June 30, 1986 support for academic users on the Honeywell system ends. That means an end to mail and any programs you may have.

University of Alaska Computer Network encourages everyone with an account on 'Honey' to move to the VAX as soon as possible. If you have many programs you should move these before December 1985. This way if problems arrise you'll have several months to work them out.

In order to have a mail box you will need a VAX account as this will be the official system. Mail commands will remain basically the same. The most difficult thing for users moving from 'Honey' to VAX is to remember the delete key rather than the backspace key is used to correct typing errors.

To secure an account on the VAX system contact a node in the computer rooms for the appropriate Userid form. Anyone who requests a Honey account will automatically be put up on VAX.

New name for magazine

The new CCREE magazine now has a name:
FROM THE WOODPILE

Students and faculty from all community colleges are encourage to submit original works for publication, including poetry, stories, non fiction, essays, book reviews, profiles, history, politics, line drawings and cartoons. Also, the magazine will publish photos with manuscripts or separately, no larger than 5x7 black and white. Manuscripts should be submitted with a cover sheet including name, address and college.

Send manuscripts in care of
Barbara Mishler
Mat-Su Community College
P.O. Box 899
Palmer, AK 99645

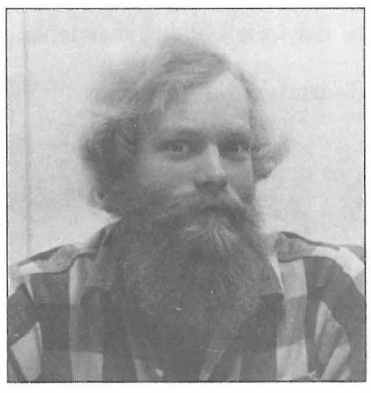
"Why are you here?" is the question Mat-Su Monitor reporter Kris Sievers posed this week. Here are some answers:

Alona Milton

Being home raising a family for the last six years I found it very difficult to get back in the work force for anything more than minimum wage.

Sharie K. Bernhardt

I have wanted to go to college for many years but I had to work mysef to the bone to make a living. But now that I am a senior citizen I have time to go to school. I think it is great to acquire the knowledge that I have wanted for so long.



Jule Petersen

When you're a construction worker for many years, you see how the brain becomes inactive. I couldn't see myself staying in that rut and therefore came to college mainly to gain a better understanding of our world.

Vi Redington

Behind the scenes — Vi Redington

by Kathy Schulz

She's the woman behind the scenes, the one who types the assignments and grades the papers. Her office has no name on the door, and though she's been with MSCC for nine years, this secretary, Vi Redington, leads another life — that of homesteader, local historian, and wife to the internationally known musher, Joe Redington.

Raised in the farming community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Vi first learned her office skills in high school. Upon graduation, she worked for two years at Ingersoll Rand.

At age 24, married and with an eighteen month old baby, Vi severed family ties and headed north for Alaska. "People in Buck County just didn't travel much," she recalls, "They stayed put. It was easy for Joe — his family had always moved around."

They left the states in 1948, in a new civilian jeep, packing a season's supply of food, and "enough spare parts to build another truck." While immigrating north Vi adopted her first husky; a woman gave her a pup she admired at a Canadian border trading post. "Dodger" later became one of her sled dogs and mother to many litters.

The Redingtons located in the Matanuska Valley well known for its farming community. Mae Carter, then the borough commissioner and post mistress, told them of good homestead land at Knik, so they bounced up the dirt road, passing the grader that was opening the trail. By June they were building their first cabin, a temporary structure with "holes so big between the logs you could put your hand through the walls." By fall the family had settled into a permanent home "with a real wood floor."

"I really enjoyed homesteading. I had never done anything like that. We lived without electricity and running water. We put up fish, canned our meat, or stripped it for drying. Back in those days it was easier to live off the land." Reflecting on what she most liked about frontier life, Vi says, "Probably the way everybody worked together. Everyone helped each other out. If you had something you didn't need, you gave it to someone else. We made use of everything. Lots of settlers helped us get started, and in turn we helped lots of other people coming in."

Other than an occasional job her husband Joe could find, fishing set net sites at the mouth of the Big Su provided the family's main source of income for years. "I don't like getting all muddy," Vi comments on her years of fishing. But the boys thrived on it, and later Joe skippered his own boat, a homemade scow, deliverying his own fish and others to the cannery. Vi hopes to someday drydock the "Nomad", now a famous valley landmark, next to the Knik museum.

The roadhouse in Knik was the community hall, and next to it was the chapel, and the Redingtons came here to socialize. They became fast friends with the old timers and listened to tales about the early life in the north. "I guess I've always been interested in history. Even as a little girl." Vi's passion for historical preservation turned to concern that much of the folklore was being lost, and soon she and other interested individuals were collecting artifacts, and recording the stories they heard.

The Redingtons became the first family to live on Flat Horn Lake, about a 30 mile run from Knik. The trails they followed were the original mail runs, later known as the Iditarod Trail. "Until Joe got his plane, we would make the trip to Knik by dog team. Later we put up a camp about halfway, where we could stay the night. We were on the trail every day, either hauling freight, training dogs, or bringing home firewood." Her sons became interested first in racing dogs, and later Joe encouraged Vi to run the Women's World Championship Race at the Fur Rendezvous.

Around 1966, the original Fulton-Hershey pool room, later known as the Knik roadhouse, and now know as the Knik Museum, was willed to the Redingtons to preserve. So a group of local citizens decided to restore it and revive the Iditarod Trail for the Alaskan Bi-Centenniel. As individuals, they could not be allocated restoration money, so the "Knik Frontiers" were formed. Federal, state and borough money could then be used for the renovation of townsite and trail.

Today Vi is vice-president of the Wasilla-Knik-Willow Creek Historical Society, and amalgamation of the first group of citizens who had worked to save this piece of Alaska. Along with all of her volunteer work, Vi is Mat-Su Community College's full time faculty secretary, a job she loves, and that finds her "learning right along with the students."

"Vi Redington is an extremely personable and dedicated individual who gets along with everyone," says Dean Glenn Massey. "She's an extremely valuable asset to our college."

Correction, she's an important asset to the community and the state — this woman behind the scenes.

AkPalU* News

by Martha Head

"What happened to the card catalog?"

That is a question heard often in the library this fall. The catalog is still there...on microfiche. You can now search for authors, titles, or subjects comfortably seated at a microfiche reader! Ask the librarian to introduce you to this wonderful new way to find library materials.

And here's a reminder to students who have term papers due before semester's end:

— Choose your topic early.
— Begin your research early.
— If you have any problems finding information on your topic, ask the librarian.
— Some of the research materials you need may not be available at the MSCC library. But the friendly staff will help you borrow needed materials from other libraries on interlibrary loan. It takes a week to ten days for loans to get here, so, again, start early!

Coming (we hope) in January: an automated circulation system. In preparaton the library staff will bar code all library materials (just like grocery items). The Hewlett-Packard 150 at the circulation desk will issue each patron an ID number. As the patron checks out books, the computer will link checked out items to the proper patron record. If that does not sound magic enough, the librarian will accomplish all this with a wand!

*AkPalU is the symbol the Western Library Network assigned the MSCC Library. You will see this symbol in our microfiche catalog to indicate that MSCC library owns a particular book. The library staff has always been user friendly, and now "Pal" is our middle name!

Community Schools

by Bob Doyle

Community School activities are designed to meet the needs of residents of all ages. Offered on weekday evenings and weekends the program is operated by the Mat-Su School District. College students interested in physical fitness and sports are encouraged to contact either Palmer Community School at 745-7750 or Wasilla Community School at 376-7813.

Weight-lifting, aerobics, basketbll, volleyball, karate, and many more activites are available, plus youth programs too. The winter semster begins the third week of January, schedules will be mailed by the beginning of the month. Interested persons with ideas or suggestions should contact Community Schools director Bob Doyle by Dec. 9, at 745-7977.

There are also many credit courses available in decentralized locations throughout the borough to meet the needs of those living in rural communities and to meet the staff development needs of teachers throughout the district.

Student Regent election

The current term of the student representative to the Board of Regents expires next February, and elections are underway to select a list of nominees for the next appointment.

To be eligible as a nominee, a student must be enrolled full-time in the University of Alaska system, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Alaska, and a student at the school from which he or she receives the nomination.

Nominee petitions do not require a special form, but each petition must contain 10 valid signatures of MSCC students. The election of a nominee from MSCC will be supervised by Jason Causey, student government vice-president. Elections will be held before Nov. 18, if student interest generates at least one nominee candidate.

Final selection will be made by the governor by early January.

As a member of the Board of Regents, the student regent will participate in determining the needs of the University of Alaska system, the condition of the University property, the disposition of appropriated and restricted funds and the course of instruction in the University with the advice of the University president.

For more information on the student regent position, contact a member of the student council.

Pushing Fifty

by John Salter

Oh, yes, that's me. The twenty-fifth anniversary of my twenty-fifth birthday is just around the corner and look Ma! I'm a student.

Now back in the days when I was attending dear old Murphy High School way down in Mobile, Alabama, good study habits were not my strong point. This condition has not improved with age, just my excuses. They're excellent.

When I started classes here at MSCC, I thought I'd stand out like a sore thumb, but hey, I see a lot of grey hair in the classes and halls and darn little of it on the heads of the instructors. Of course, that too might change before the semester's out.

Proof that we get too soon old and too late smart is that I'm writing this on Monday morning to turn in at noon. Plan ahead? Sure.

If what they say about teaching an old dog new tricks is true, I'm in deep, deep trouble.

A Limerick

A dashing young student at Mat-Su
who had prepped for a test in Lit II
came back from the class
with hopes at half-mast
of answers he knew far too few!

Picture-Taking

Taking a picture of a picture-taking. Becky Kersey shoots the Matanuska River at sunrise.

Loan changes

From page 1

said larson, because there would not be a significant savings to the state. "Over a five year period of time, doing away with the forgiveness clause would bring back about only $2 million more," explained Larson. "Moving the date of repayment from year of graduation back to six months would bring back $10 million or five times as much."

Raising the interst rate to eight per cent is also being discussed, and Larson is quick to add the student loan program is not alone in this adjustment. All other state loan programs might undergo similar changes; for example, homes, business and agriculture.

"In the future," Larson said, "students will have to make a commitment out of their pockets. If they show their financial need is $5,000, they're going to have to put up $500 of their own money. If you're serious enough to put the money down, you're going to be more committed to do what you say you're going to do."

Presently the rate of defaulting students is down from 17 per cent to 14 per cent, and although only about 10 per cent of the students qualify for forgiveness, funds are still diminishing. And the student borrower will be the one to bear the brunt of the shortage.

At this point, the proposed changes are only suggested amendments. Existing contracts will not be affected; the student loan changes that are ultimately adopted will influence future loans only.

Anyone having comments or suggestions is invited to contact Rep. Larson, preferably in writing, but he adds students should not hesitate to call.

Write to: Rep. Larson
P.O. Box 53
Palmer, Ak 99645
After Jan.: Rep. Larson
Pouch V
Juneau, AK
99811

Call the following numbers: home, 745-3826; office, 376-8628; Juneau, 465-3727.

Accreditation

From page 1

focus on problems already identifed in the self-study process. He said careful consideration must be given to the adequacy of support for existing programs before embarking on new ones and suggested more attention be paid to institutional planning and procedures.

To evaluate course offerings and accurately assess student needs, the team recommended regularly schedued meetings between administration, faculty, the Instructional Council, and the President's Advisory Committee.

The team also recommended that Mat-Su adhere strictly to Standar X of the Commission of Colleges which mandates a general education component for all degree and vocational programs of one year or more in length.

Mat-Su needs full-time faculty in the physical sciences, social sciences, and office occupations, but Malik noted that part-time staff members were "really essential for breadth in curriculum and flexibility in class schedules." However, said Malik, better opportunities should be offered part-time staff members to become involved in program planning.

The problem of transferring credits deserves the attention not only of the Mat-Su faculty and administration, said Malik, but of the University Chancellor and Board of Regents as well. "There is a political dimension to this issue," he noted.

Finally, Malik ponted out that the Mat-Su student population is changing, with an increasingly higher percentage of younger students who have different expectations about campus life. The team recommended that Mat-Su begin offering some of the more traditional student services like a game room or intramural squad.

The next step in the accreditation process will be a complete report to the Commission on Colleges scheduled for Dec. 7, in Las Vegas. Mat-Su Community College president, Al Okeson, who will attend that meeting, said he was pleased with the "very favorable exit interview." "There were no surprises," said Okeson, "and I think it was a very helpful process."

Team members indicated they had enjoyed their visit to Alaska and the Mat Valley. In fact, said "we'd all like to apply for jobs here."

First Snow

by John Salter

It was appropriate that we received our first snow on Alaska Day. After all isn't this the land of icebergs, igloos, and an unsanded Trunk Road? It's only the latter part of October, so why should the road crews be ready for snow?

Driving to my 1 p.m. class was a real course in driver's ed., one that several drivers failed. Of course many decided not to take the test. My class was almost empty.

I'm sure that the powers that be are aware of how many attend MSCC and how much traffic Trunk Road carries. I for one can't afford another wrecker bill.

Sweet Is Sweet

by Luke Higginbotham

With the devastating force of an 8.5 earth quake, the great depression swooped down on us in the late 20's. My first impression of these lean years came when I was six. I had a craving for bonbons to rival Wimpy's love of hamburgers, but for me, sweets were an almost unheard of luxury. So looking at the stuff was my only pleasure.

Country stores in the 30's, like malls today, were the shopping centers for people living out of town. And on the rare occasions I could go along, I spent my whole time in the store admiring the candies. Curvy, multicolored jelly beans, plump gum-drops, the luscious sugars, delightfully wrapped baby ruths, and the wide variety of chocolates, all swimmingly desirable — and out of reach. Returning home at night, I dreamed of candy, big mountains of it. All night I dug through, and around a huge assortment of delicious goodies, some I had never seen before. Sheer torture. But times were hard, and although I didn't understand why, money was too scarce for such trifles.

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched an attack on Pearl Harbor that plunged our country into World War Two. The economy flourished, and I grew up. I began working odd jobs after school, and finally had my own money. By then I could afford all the little treats I wanted, but by that time, my desire for girls had replaced my desire for candy.

TV

From page 1

MSCC has yet to develop in this area.

This semester on our campus a wide variety of aduio and telecourses including topics in computers, business, oceanography, etc. are being offered. Next semester the selection will increase. Currently college credit is through ACC or UAA however, credit will be through MSCC as of spring semester. These courses meet with Associate of Arts degree requirements and are scheduled for 4 consecutive semesters. Watch for course listings to begin soon for spring semester.

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Attention students:
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